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OF SOCIAL WORK

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No. 3

MISS LATHROP INVITES YOU

When I think of the first National Conference of Charities and Correction which I attended, that was held at Nashville in 1894, the inspiring zest it bestowed upon me comes back afresh to my mind.

Other Conferences may be far greater than the first one attended, but that first contact remains a thing apart, not to be judged by usual rules of criticism. It gives an opportunity to meet people whom we have known only by name or by the printed page, to take a personal measure of their powers, and to enrich our circle of professional acquaintances and of personal friends.

Today the Conference, under a new and generous title, offers in its old spirit the same opportunity for discussion and acquaintanceship to all those engaged in the great field we call social work.

Unexpectedly enough, social work is a recognized war necessity, and the work which must follow the war no less than that now under way requires all the common sense and all the high imagination which our pooled intelligence can command.

The effort to enlarge the membership of the Conference of Social Work by securing new members now is especially justified because we are in the greatest emergency of our time, so that we need to consult together, to know each other, and to work together. I cannot but hope that the 1919 Conference may give us all a full measure of inspiration, and it will if we are able to enlist the interest of representatives of that great army of younger social workers who are bringing to their new tasks training and devotion. It is these later recruits who will carry on.

Miss Lathrop

On the "Fire-Step"

Through careful planning, with specialized direction and instruction to difficult states, the membership campaign has been nursed along to the final stretch. The two last weeks of this month were set for the final drive. The "zero hour" was fixed for October 15.

Some postponements have been necessary and have been arranged for. But word has come from nearly every captain that delays are only making possible more intensive planning and are opening new avenues of effort. The epidemic has caused a change in many instances from the personal to the "appeal letter" method of approach. Many states have reported additional memberships and say that nothing will prevent their going along with the campaign. Some, it is thought, will go over the top within the time set.

Every captain is asked to send his report of memberships secured during the last period of the drive, to Conference headquarters not later than November 15, so that the results may be announced in the next BULLETIN.

Captains and lieutenants everywhere have given their word that they will carry on and "follow up." They are on the "fire step." Some are crossing "no man's land."

One thing more is needed. "YOU"—the reader of this article, be you member or non-member, can furnish the

"barrage" to see them safely across. Here is how:

On page 11 of this issue appears a convenient form. Fill it out, detach it and send it to headquarters at Chicago. Here are three definite ways to render effective service to the conference. Decide which to follow, and please remember, "One today is worth two tomorrows."

1. If you are already a member, increase your support.
2. If you are not a member, join.
3. If you are a member or not, GET ANOTHER MEMBER.

This simple service to the conference is a service of value also to the friend you induce to join, thus double merit is yours.



An example of New Jersey's contributions to modern methods of social work: one of the buildings at the Burlington County Colony for Feeble-minded

DAY DREAMS?

A Few Paragraphs on Ideals in a Time of Feverish Haste

Perhaps this article should not be placed so prominently. But if the reader is "looking for action," there are three or four pretty direct suggestions elsewhere on this page, and many others throughout the issue.

At the back of recent volumes of the Conference *Proceedings* are indexed all interpretative statements about the organization made in the course of discussions at the annual meetings. Those who think much about the trend and outlook of organized social work would profit by reading these statements as a series. At Pittsburgh, Mr. Edward T. Devine said:

"This is a national conference and, therefore, in tune with the great national purpose; sharing the traditions and the apprehensions of the nation with an even more sacred right from having concerned itself for nearly half a century with the nation's wreckage and social dangers."

Every movement that has kept upon its course in this momentous time finds its values magnified. Waves of influence spread rapidly and far, when old ideas and institutions have been loosened from their moorings. Is it overbold, then, to presume that the one forum which, uniquely for more than a generation, has kept social science and practice together on this continent, has come upon a period of magnificent responsibility?

Voices From Out the Past

The past is playing a strong part in developments these days. It is a happy circumstance, therefore, that adherents of the National Conference can think back. President Rutherford B. Hayes, as chairman of the 1886 meeting, characterized the Conference as a convocation of heads of all the leading social agencies. He said "Institutions," for that was the day of predominance of the institutional idea. Perhaps the most discriminating and forceful panegyric on the Conference that has ever been written was that of President Hart in 1893. The distinctive characteristics of the body which he named were, its catholicity, its optimism, its practicality, its personnel, and its simplicity of organization. That was the twentieth anniversary.

They were dreamers in those days! One is surprised to see how much of what we think "recent gains" were reviewed as achievements before 1893. The services of the Conference in developing the theory and methods of charity organization societies, for example, even then had been of incalculable value. Members in those early years were impressed with the dignity

and mission of the Conference, and of the humanitarian measures it represented. Year by year, for instance, the *state supervisory board* principle was idealized; and in 1891 Follet of Ohio exclaimed: "Some of us may live to see—in God's good time—a United States Board of Charities."

That was in the "Elizabethan Era" of social work. Period by period, one may trace in the activities and discussions of the Conference the force of great ideas, and convictions, and personalities. With the National Conference the Child Labor Committee had its birth. Through Conference discussions the problem of mental defectiveness got its best definition and popular exposition. Of that particular service a delegate once testified: "I never knew there were so many feeble-minded people in the world until I attended the National Conference." Many recall the contributions of the Conference toward understanding of industrial standards—and their immediate adoption in political platforms. About that time, also, distinct contribution was made to the definition and appreciation of *social justice*.

Are Opportunities Exhausted?

Has the Conference run short of opportunities for reform in professional and popular thinking?

Scarcely would one so conclude from an examination of the subject matter of discussion in recent years, of the representative character of participants and of the use of Conference literature. Typical issues of the past—state supervision, the "merit system" in appointment of public officials, co-operation between private charities, special institutional treatment of the heterogeneous population of almshouses—have been superseded by other problems that call for intelligent analysis and widespread educational propaganda.

Nowadays we are striving to build up professional standards and spirit among a greatly increased and diversified corps of public officials; to apply case work technique to all problems involving the treatment of individuals; to determine the most effective relationships of communities—from neighborhood to nation—to specific tasks of social work; to apply modern methods of research in a re-examination into the causes of poverty, defect and crime. In number and magnitude of problems treated, any one of the ten divisions of the Conference these days ranks favorably with the entire body of two decades ago.

Great Days Ahead

Still, in a period vastly more complex does that early service of co-ordination continue. But for the common appreciation of the vital necessity of presenting a united front, of following a single program, the workers and agencies of the country could not have preserved this one medium of exchange. How fortunate it is—as we are accustomed to say about many other institutions of our national life—that this machinery, and this common understanding exist, in the crisis of war and reconstruction! Red Cross, Commission on Training Camp Activities, and the great governmental de-

Social Work is NOT ADJOURNED



for the War

The war programs of American social agencies are reflected in this volume as in no other.

Have we run wild on detail—is there a crossing of purposes—in building up the immense new machinery required by the War?

Two thousand representative workers have paused to consider the multitude of new issues raised by the War. Read their conclusions in the PROCEEDINGS of the National Conference of Social Work.

Cloth, 650 pages, \$2.50

Sample pamphlet sent free. State your field of interest. Ask for table of contents. Write today.

315 PLYMOUTH COURT, CHICAGO

Can you use an electrolyte like the above in some publication with which you are connected?

partments, have drawn largely upon the technique and principles of social work established through the National Conference. The personnel of workers whose training the Conference has so uniformly influenced have been drawn upon to the point of exhaustion. And now the reconstruction looms!

Is not the day of greatest service ahead? Both for war and for peace, is there not an emergency call for scientific discussion, for the orderly approach, for co-ordination of practical agencies, for definition of professional standards, and for mingling of technical considerations with the great democracy of public opinion?

W. T. C.

Epidemic Stops Conferences

A series of postponements that is probably unique in the history of state conferences of charities and similar organizations has occurred during the last ten days. The abandonment of these meetings, in all cases on account of the epidemic of influenza, has apparently in most cases resulted directly from the orders of health authorities. One of the most important of these announcements was that of the American Prison Association, calling off its meeting which was to occur in New York, October 14-18. The American Public Health Association and the American Association for the Study and Prevention of Infant Mortality likewise have postponed their annual meetings.

In quick succession came similar announcements from the following states regarding their conferences of charities:

Illinois
Iowa
Kentucky
Maine
Massachusetts
Michigan
Missouri.

There is indication in most of the announcements that the meetings will be held later and that the original programs will be followed. The Indiana and Wisconsin meetings were held just before the epidemic reached an acute stage. Kentucky workers were invited to attend the Indiana meeting at Evansville.

Conference Members at War

In the August *Bulletin* a form of inquiry was sent to National Conference members concerning their war-time service. Of over 4,000 inquiries sent out, only 343 replies were received. Many members are known to be in active service in the army or navy, either overseas or in the camps of this country. They can scarcely be expected to send answers to the questionnaire.

Only ten per cent of the members of the Conference are represented in this summary. Every member of the National Conference should consider it an act of loyalty to the organization and of patriotism to fill out and return the questionnaire that was furnished with the August *Bulletin*. If the form has been mislaid, a new one will be sent upon request. When a more satisfactory number of replies have been received a final summary will be published in the *Bulletin*.

A study of these 343 replies shows that 209 members are active in the Red Cross, 175 as volunteers and 18 in official capacity. Of the 105 active in the Council of National Defense, or its state or local branches, 10 specify Americanization as their particular type of service. Ten members report activity in organizations having purposes similar to those of the Council of National Defense, but operating under various other titles. Fifty-five members state they have been active in Liberty Loan, War Stamp, and War Chest campaigns, while 43 are engaged in educational work in the Students' Army Training Corps, Home Service Institutes, or as speakers on war-time topics (other than four-minute men). In the recreation movement or community service for soldiers and sailors and its allied activities with girls, social hygiene matters, etc., 62 report activity. Ten are serving as war risk insurance investigators, 23 on Food or Fuel Administration boards, 40 in some public health, medical or nursing activity,—six of these latter as government appointees. Nineteen are devoted to the war-time tasks of the Y. M. C. A. or the Y. W. C. A. and 11 to those of various church organizations or the Salvation Army. One member, after stating her war-time connections, adds "and praying." Nine are serving on draft registration boards, while one reports service on the Board of Inquiry on Conscientious Objectors. Fifteen members are giving time to questions of employment that have arisen as a result of a state of war. Nineteen are performing legal service in connection with the war.

Nine mention service performed in various other specified activities, and 26 in other relief organizations than those mentioned above. Seventeen included financial contributions among their war-time services. It is doubtless true that all, or nearly all National Conference members could do the same, except that they have not listed this all important sacrifice as an "activity." Another interesting "activity" is probably not unique, although mentioned by only one member, and it is one that spells true heroism in these exciting times—"taking on extra work in order to release others for war service."

Red, White or Blue?

Picture a three-foot outline map of the United States over the desk of the Associate Secretary at headquarters. Visualize a blue map tack stuck into each state which has not yet reported a single member in the campaign, and a white tack bearing red figures for every state that has. The Middle West and some of the Eastern area are lighted up here and there with white tacks. Most of the remainder of the map still reflects a dismal blue. Day by day, though slowly, the white buttons are driving the blues away. "Over the Top" states "sport" large red buttons bearing black figures indicating the order in which they went over. Thirty states have gotten out of the blue class and three red buttons shine courageously through the mass of blue and white. Which is your state, red, white or blue?

Example of a bit of war-time economy: because of the spread of influenza in Kentucky, the board of health called off all public meetings, hence the Kentucky State Conference set for October 9th was not held. National Conference literature sent for use at the meeting was returned by Lucy Short Warren, Secretary, with the brief word, "In compliance with the Government request that paper be saved and all usable matter returned to the sender, we are today returning, etc."

Captains and lieutenants are urged to put every piece of Conference printed matter to work, and to return any surplus, only however, after their states are "over the top."

"One hundred per cent" is the slogan and objective set for every city in which there is a central council of social agencies, a federation or a community union. "One hundred per cent" is also the slogan and objective of charity organizations, children's agencies, nursing organizations and others in cities where there is no central council or community union. The idea for federation, central council and similar group memberships was contributed by the Detroit Community Union. The Union recently voted its entire membership, more than 40 organizations, into affiliation with the National Conference. Central councils in Wisconsin, Illinois, Texas, Missouri and Kentucky are developing plans to do the same.

THE GIRL PROBLEM



In War Time and After

Baffling—of course! But what have you and your community done about it?

Moral supervision, vice control, public health, reformatory institutions — and the great future, when the boys come home.

READ ABOUT this and dozens of other war time issues in social work in the PROCEEDINGS of the

National Conference of Social Work

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Ask for table of contents. Write today.
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Campaign Reaches India!

This week the public health association of Broach, India, has been received into the membership of the National Conference of Social Work. This organization is entitled "The Broach Sanitary Association." Its activities include the operation of an ambulance center. Its publications are in the local dialect, for the most part, but its plan of activity is strikingly similar to that of public health organizations in America.

"I have to thank you for sending me free some of your pamphlets, which were much appreciated by the Honorary Doctors and the Executive Committee of our Association," writes the honorary associate secretary, Nahari K. Desai; "send me your health pamphlets of the past years with the bill."

County Charities

"If one is thorough in his ambitions, the thought of neglected social work fence corners is unbearable. So long as there are social weed patches in the country, the results will make themselves known in the city."—Homer W. Borst at the Kansas City Conference, in an argument for the establishment of county case-work agencies.

(Pamphlet No. 148. Price 5 cents.)

What Shall Become of Munitions Towns?

The organization of English cooperative towns was discussed by Lawson Purdy at the Kansas City Conference and a simpler alternative suggested in respect to the future of America's mushroom munitions cities.

(Pamphlet No. 138. Price 5 cents.)

Take a One-Man Share In the Larger Membership Campaign

HELP WIDEN

NATIONAL CONFERENCE SERVICE

This form to be used in securing memberships and pledges.

- ☐ Please enroll me as a member, sending the monthly "Conference Bulletin" and Annual Proceedings.
(Check class of membership desired.)

- ☐ **1. Regular—\$3.00 Yearly:** Entitles holder to volume of cloth-bound "Proceedings", to monthly issues of the "Conference Bulletin", to all announcements and to attend the Conference as an official delegate, participating in the voting during business sessions and in the discussions during section meetings.
- ☐ **2. Sustaining—\$10.00 Yearly:** This is the preferred form of membership. It includes all of the privileges mentioned and, in addition, enables the holder, through larger financial interest, to help the organization in its larger work of developing a nation-wide unity of purpose and action among the social forces of our country and of disseminating information.
- ☐ **3. Institutional—\$25.00 Yearly:** The Conference is a democratic, co-operative organization depending upon local, state and national social agencies for its influence and power. It asks the support of such organizations. Its larger development depends upon the number of its institutional members. Any agency or institution is eligible to membership. Institutional members may participate in the annual meeting through their official delegates.

- ☐ Please send _____ copies of the present issue to addresses given below, at special rate of ten copies for 25 cents.

Amount enclosed \$ _____ sent by _____

Address _____

Name _____ Address _____

Name _____ Address _____

Name _____ Address _____

Put any additional names and addresses on separate slip.

THE CONFERENCE BULLETIN OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF SOCIAL WORK

President, Julia C. Lathrop, Chief, Federal Children's Bureau, Washington
Treasurer, Charles W. Folds, Chicago
General Secretary and Editor of the Bulletin, William T. Cross, Chicago

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Sent all members in consideration of payment of fifty cents as part of membership fee.

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Nature of the Conference

The National Conference of Social Work (until recently the National Conference of Charities and Correction) exists to facilitate discussion of the problems and methods of practical human improvement, to increase the efficiency of agencies and institutions devoted to this cause, and to disseminate information.

It began as a part of the American Social Science Association in 1874. Its scope and influence have gradually widened with the growth of scientific thought and the increase in extent and complexity of social problems. Its annual meetings attract between 3,000 and 4,000 delegates.

The Conference consists of seven permanent Divisions, devoted to the following subjects: Children; Delinquents and Correction; Health; Public Agencies and Institutions; The Family; Industrial and Economic Problems; and The Local Community. Special provision is made for the consideration of subjects not falling under any of these classifications.

Anyone who is interested in the purposes and work of the Conference may become a member upon payment of the prescribed fee: regular members, \$3.00 a year; sustaining, \$10.00; institutional, \$25.00. Join the Conference, so as to lend it your support and to participate in the benefits of its association.

Donations, in any amounts, are asked, to maintain and increase the larger educational work of the organization.

The *Proceedings* of the annual meeting, in cloth-bound volume or in separate sections, and this monthly *Bulletin* are furnished without additional cost to all members. This and other literature, including many pamphlets, may be purchased by persons not members of the Conference. Price lists will be sent on request.

A bureau of information about social problems and agencies is maintained at the Chicago office, for the service of all who may inquire, even though they may not be members.

The meeting of the National Conference Executive Committee, which was announced to occur in New York on October 16, has been postponed. It is now expected to be held in New York on November 9.

Complete single volume—or separate handbooks of the ten divisions of the Conference—in which form do you prefer to receive the "Proceedings" of the Kansas City Conference? There is still time for members to exercise choice in this matter. Fill out today and send in the form that was furnished with the September *Bulletin*—or if you have lost your copy, write for another.

The South Carolina state conference is to meet at Sumter, November 19-21. This meeting has been announced in the *Conference Bulletin* previously to occur in October, the error being due to a confusion with a special meeting of workers called by the state chapter of the Council of National Defense.

The Tri-State Conference (Maryland, Delaware, the District of Columbia) is not expected to meet this year because of the war. "But we are concentrating our efforts," writes the secretary, William H. Davenport, of Baltimore, "to get our people to attend the National Conference at Atlantic City next spring."

Miss Bertha Freeman, a member of the National Conference staff, was married on the 20th of September to James Harvey Hooper, a real estate dealer, of Chicago. Since 1913 Mrs. Hooper has been an officer of the Conference, in the important capacity of Recording Secretary. She will continue to render some service to the Conference.

"Bismarck might introduce a system of social insurance in order to forestall socialism: America is not likely to put any system into force for such a reason. If it is to be justified, health insurance must make appeal on other grounds."—James H. Tufts in, "Why Social Workers Should Study the Need of Health Insurance," *Proceedings* of the Kansas City Conference.

Conferences—Secretaries

KAN.—Topeka, Nov. 12-13. G. L. Hosford, 113 N. Lawrence Av., Wichita.

MINN.—Red Wing, November 9-12. William W. Hodson, State Capitol, St. Paul, Minn.

N. Y.—Rochester, November 12-14. Richard W. Wallace, 431 The Capitol, Albany.

OHIO—Columbus, November 12-14. H. H. Shirer, 335 South High Street, Columbus.

S. C.—Sumter, Nov. 19-21. A. T. Jamison, Pres., Greenwood.

TEXAS—Fort Worth, November 17-19. James B. Rawlings, 5th and Calhoun Streets, Fort Worth.

W. VA.—Charleston, third week in January, 1919. L. H. Putnam, Capitol Bldg., Charleston.

THE NEW SOCIAL DATA And Its Use



Suddenly our country has plunged into the open.
Realms of study before obscure, and of little public interest, have been flooded with light.

An era of National development will follow our interpretation of the new facts of today.

READ ABOUT this and the many specific war time problems in social work in the *PROCEEDINGS* of the National Conference of Social Work

Cloth, 650 pages, \$2.50.
Sample pamphlet sent free. State your field of interest. Ask for table of contents. Write today.

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FATHER PENN'S DIARY

Despite "peace and rumors of peace"—and the influenza—if we may paraphrase the good old biblical quotation the Quaker State is advancing toward its objectives in the membership campaign under the leadership of Captain Edwin D. Solenberger. He has driven ahead with his plans with a straightforward simplicity that could well be imitated. Here are a few "star shells" in Pennsy's progress.

Captain Solenberger's Philadelphia committee started off his campaign with the slogan, "Compensation is the mother of progress."

At the first meeting the committee made the original selection of lieutenants.

* * *

THEN FOLLOWED:

A second meeting in Philadelphia and revision of lieutenants' list due to declinations.

A lively follow-up letter to lieutenants who had not answered.

Query to headquarters for additional lists.

Headquarters "persuaded" to accept an increase of the state quota from 277 to 300.

Decision to hold the drive in September and October.

Impartial division of quota between lieutenants.

* * *

Vigorous letter from one lieutenant, head of a charity organization, to all charity organizations in the state, asking for special lists and outlining plans.

Convincing letter from another lieutenant connected with children's agencies, asking similar organizations throughout the state for special lists and defining special service to be given.

Letter from a third lieutenant who was a chief probation officer, to all probation officers in the state.

* * *

Arrangements made to solicit Conference memberships at the State Conference.

Consent secured of leading member of the Red Cross, to send out series of strong letters to members of Home Service sections.

Arrangements happily concluded to open the campaign at meeting of Social Workers' Club in Philadelphia.

Leading officer of Visiting Nursing Society prevailed upon to sign a ringing letter to all the nursing forces in the state.

* * *

Irritating news that influenza epidemic would postpone meeting of Social Workers' Club.

Captain Solenberger hurries to headquarters a list of twenty-five members throughout the state who will give special service in connection with the campaign.

Well known hospital social service worker agrees to sign a carefully prepared letter addressed to his group.

* * *

Through this intensive, progressive and constructive campaign, not only is the Quaker State securing new members, but it is laying a fine foundation for future progressive discussion of Conference problems.

